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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

CEREBUS

98
MAY

2.00 CANADA
1.70 IN U.S.

N O T E • F R O M • T H E P R E S I D E N T

On the subject of last issue's back cover photo, captioned "Nasty Habits", I suppose there are a number of people out there for whom marijuana and its use are still considered "controversial" (a fair number of them are comic fans judging by the clucking of tongues that goes on in the letter columns whenever the subject is broached). So be it. I gave up weed whilst in Honolulu, and I'm here to tell about it.

It's actually a very good place to give it up since Hawaiian grass is among the most legendary in the drug counter-culture (I remember the first time I smoked it when Deni and I were still living on Weber Street. Totally zoo'd we was and several of our friends as well. Eric Hope and I were eating ju jubes when he suddenly voiced the thought that had just popped into my own head "Ooh. Don't eat the ju-jubes. Feels like you're chewing on your brains." We both cracked up for about a half-hour). Since Ger and I didn't have a phone and made no friends to speak of while there, there was no pressure to straighten up at any point and behave like a human being. It was straight out of bed, two or three tokes and I was fucked up 'til lunch. Two or three more and I was fucked up 'til dinner. Two or three more and I was fucked up 'til bedtime. Two or three more and the night had a thousand eyes. Those of you wondering how I managed to do the book while fucked up should be advised of the fact that I was not stoned for maybe a total of three months out of the last ten years. I had always done Cerebus stoned. I did everything stoned.

But the whole time I was smoking the Hawaiian weed (my Toronto supplier Dr. Vilebliss was indirectly sending care packages until I found a local source, whereupon the Dr.'s weed—the best in Canada— was used to flesh out joints of Hawaiian and was christened Hawaiian Helper) a line from a John Lennon song kept running round my head. "Everybody's smoking, No one's getting high".

I really wasn't. I was getting stoned. I was getting fucked up. But I was definitely not getting high. Nature of the beast, kids. You can only do so much of any drug and it's just not going to do it for you anymore.

I'm not dumping on it and I'm not saying don't do it. I have done way too much of just about anything you'd care to name on at least one occasion and I've never had cause to regret it. But anything past that first "way too much" go-round and you are eating lotus. Intake valve stuck on wide open. Looking for a new and improved nipple. I still take a toke if I'm offered. Everyone is very generous at cons and signings (very generous). But I no longer feel compelled to own the shit; to do it all day every day.

That goes for drinking and smoking and over eating.

And to all you smug straights out there, it also goes for some of your vices too.

Like coffee and tea and sugar and junk food and
Falling in love.

Falling in love makes smoking pot all day look like the ultimate in restraint.

Just check the look on your face, junkie.

CEREBUS

NO. 98 MAY 1987

DAVE SIM
President

KAREN McKIEL
Administrator

GERHARD
Backgrounds, cover-colour and tones

Circulation
31,000

CHURCH AND STATE
a novel

•

BOOK ONE
(Cerebus 52 to Cerebus 56)
Aprés State

•

BOOK TWO
(Cerebus 57 to Cerebus 63)
Back to Iest

•

BOOK THREE
(Cerebus 64 to Cerebus 80)
Church and State

•

BOOK FOUR
(Cerebus 81 to Cerebus 89)
The Sacred Wars

•

BOOK FIVE
Astoria

•

BOOK SIX
The Final Ascension

•

BOOK SEVEN
Denouement
and
Epilogue

•

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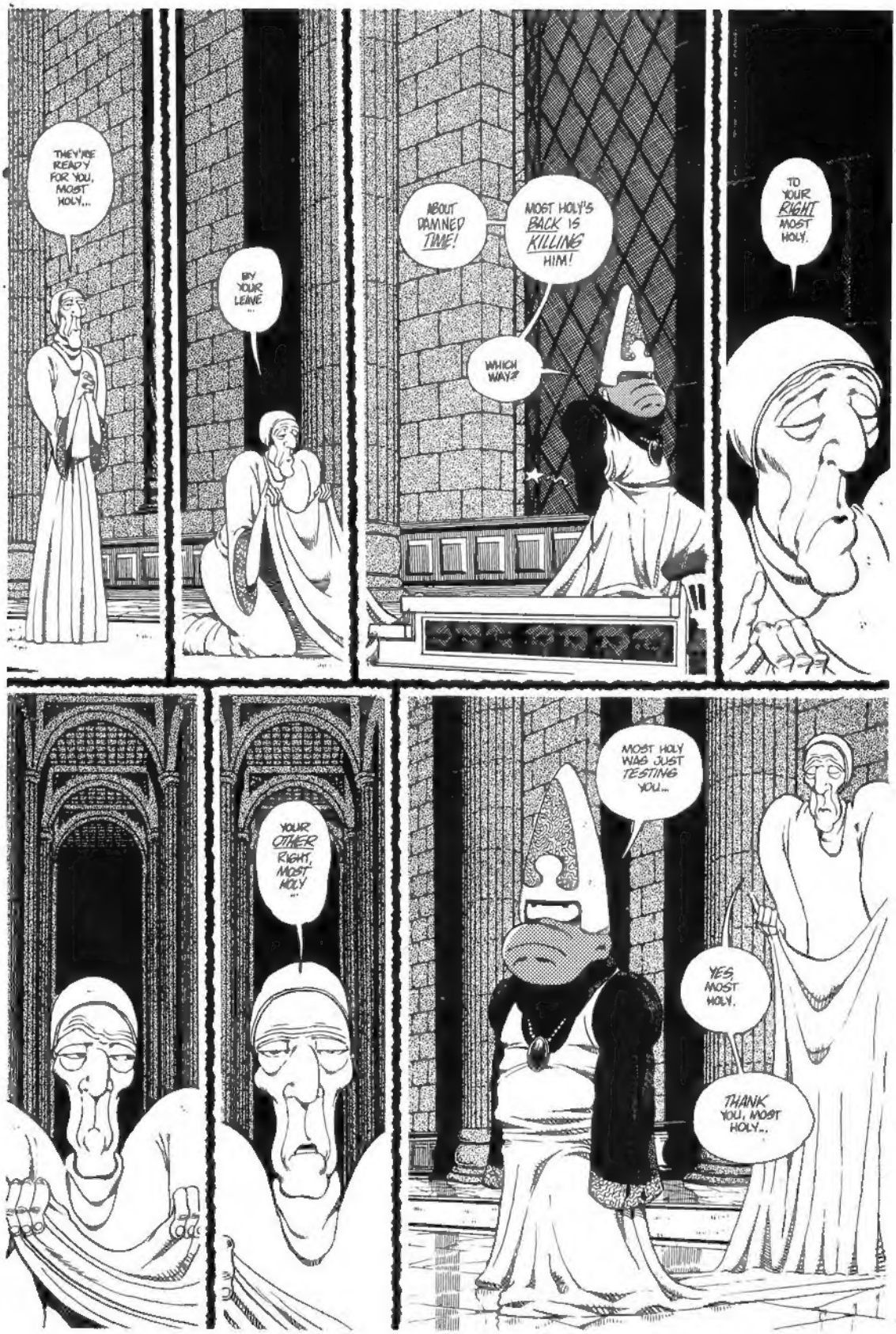
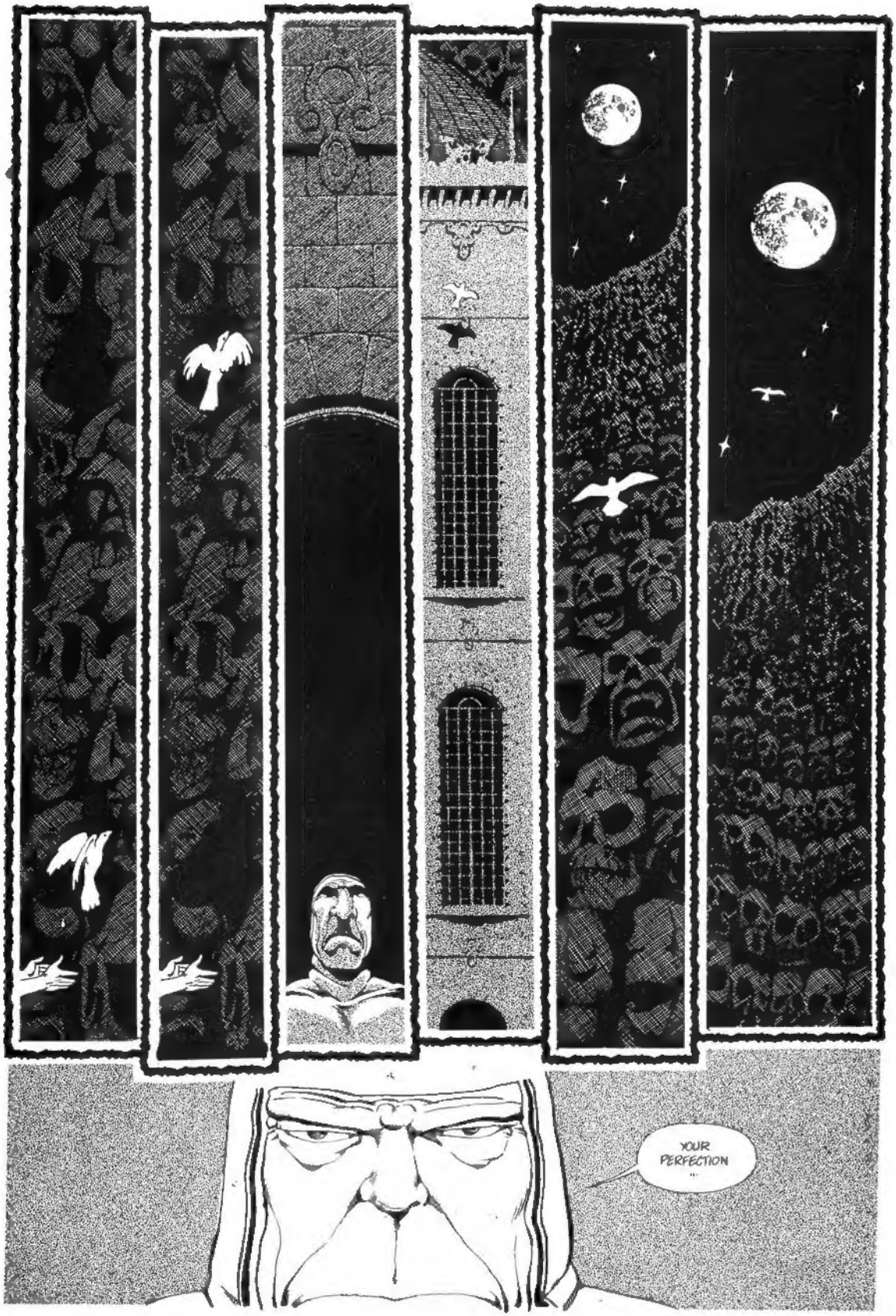
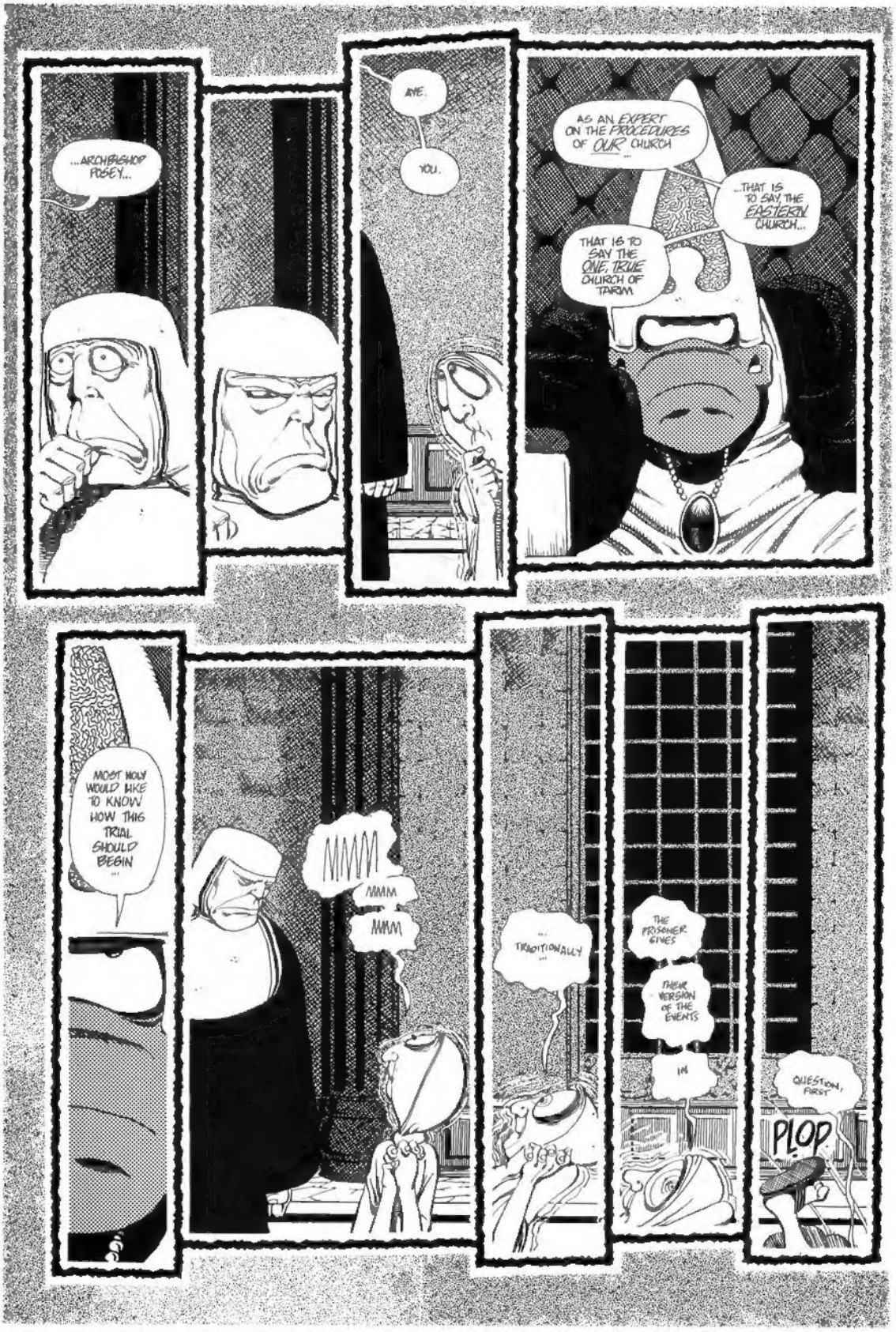
The TRIAL

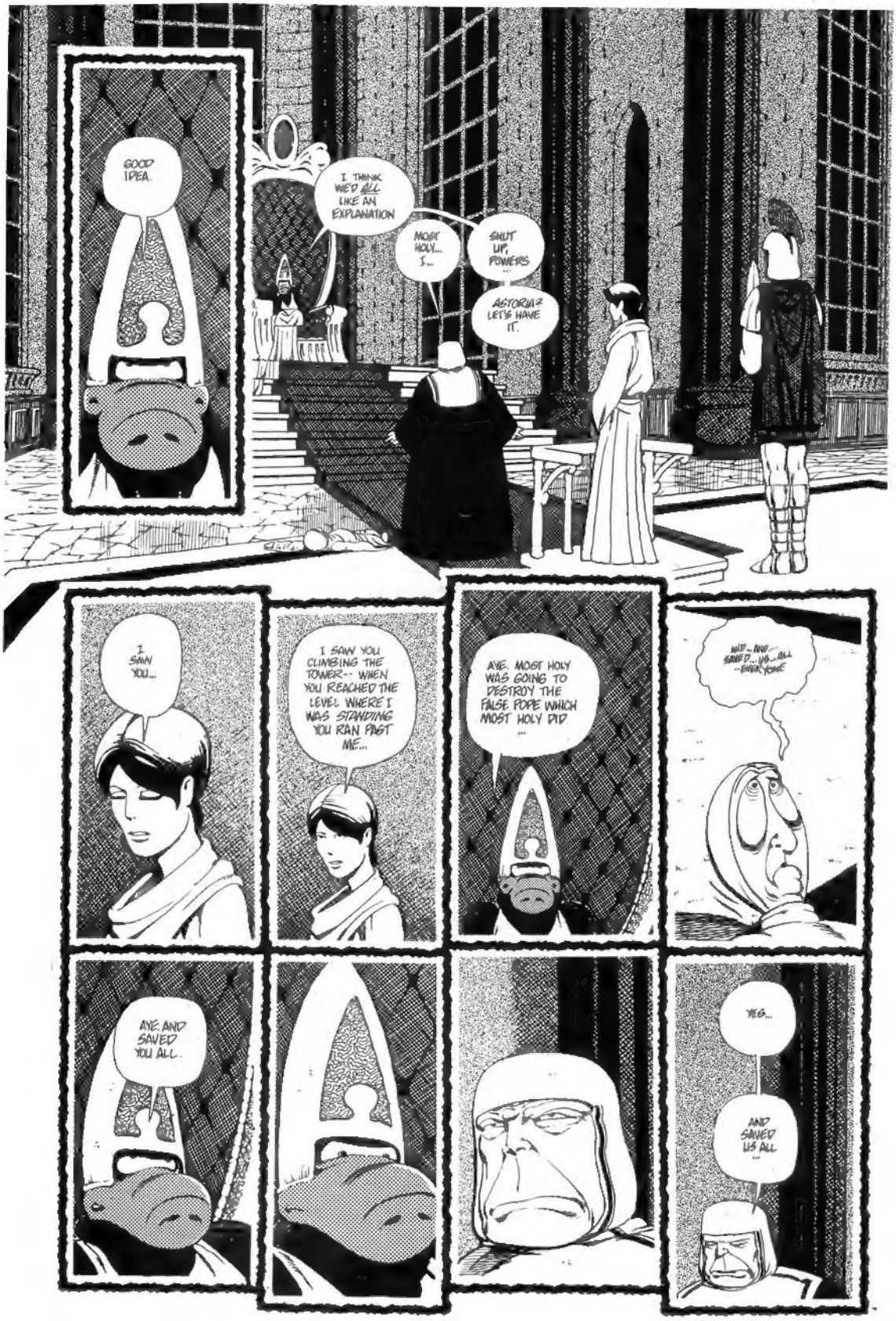
SIGH!


THEY'RE READY FOR YOU, MOST HOLY...
BY YOUR LEAVE...
ABOUT DAMNED TIME!
MOST HOLY'S BACK IS KILLING HIM!
WHICH WAY?
TO YOUR RIGHT MOST HOLY.
YOUR OTHER RIGHT, MOST HOLY...
MOST HOLY WAS JUST TESTING YOU...
YES, MOST HOLY.
THANK YOU, MOST HOLY...

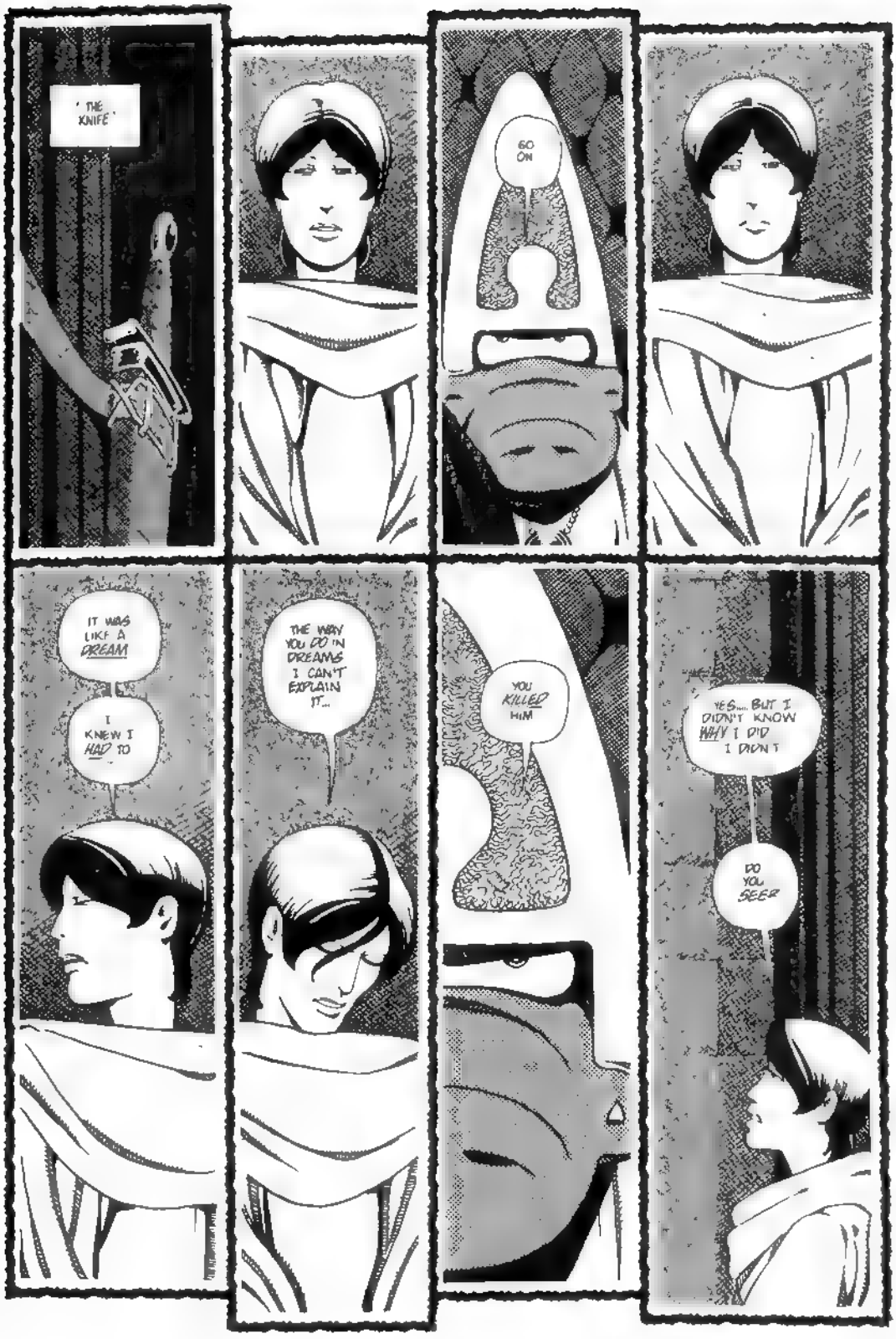

YOUR PERFECTION...

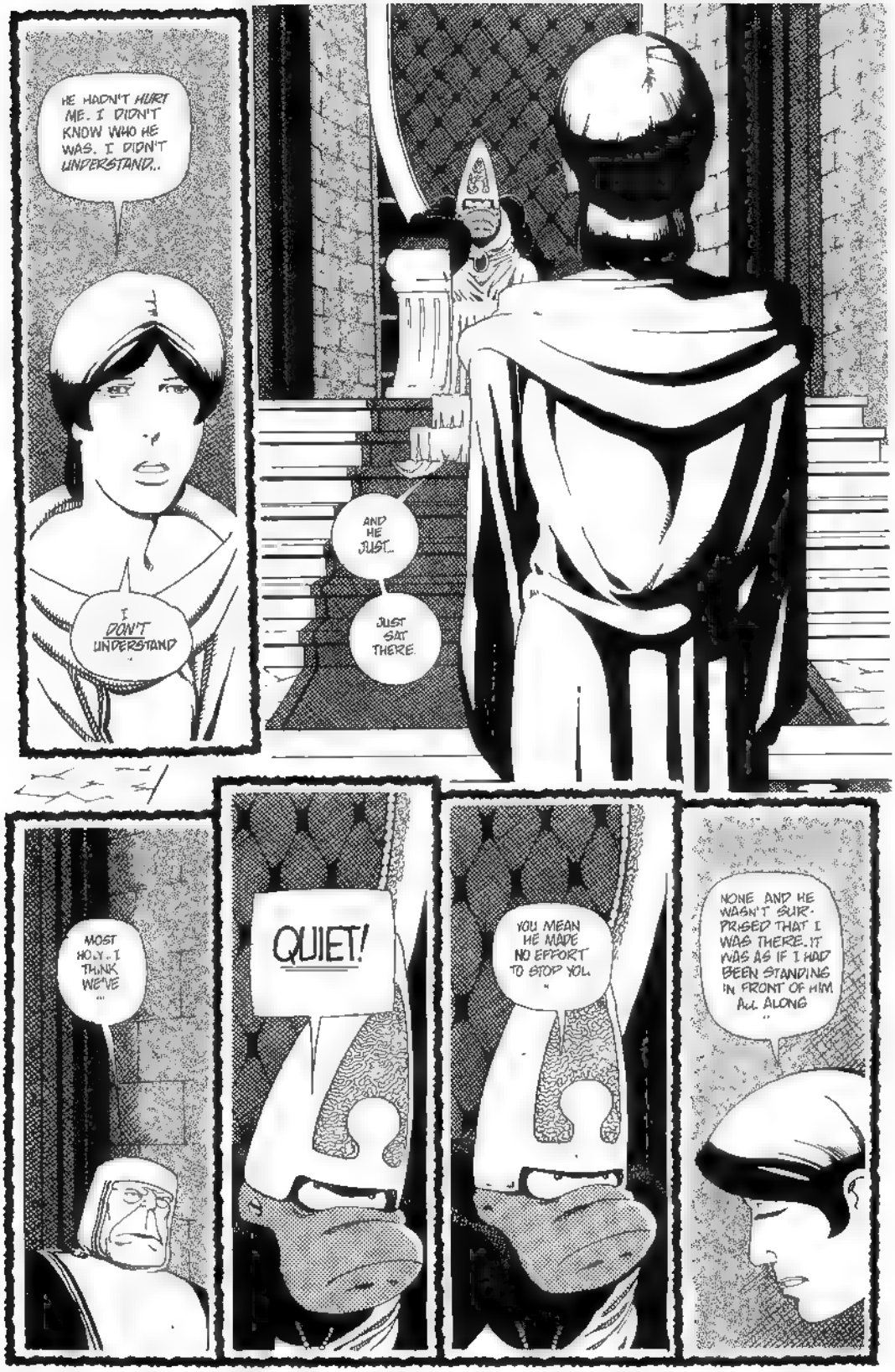
I AM SORRY MOST HOLY THAT I HAVE BEHAVED LIKE ...
THE POND SCUM THAT I AM
POWERS?
"I AM SORRY MOST HOLY THAT I HAVE BEHAVED LIKE THE POND SCUM THAT I AM."
I AM SORRY...
...MOST HOLY.
"I AM SORRY, MOST HOLY."
NOW, THEN. MOST HOLY FEELS IT IS TIME WE BEGAN THE TRIAL OF THIS PRISONER ...
SO...
AHEM

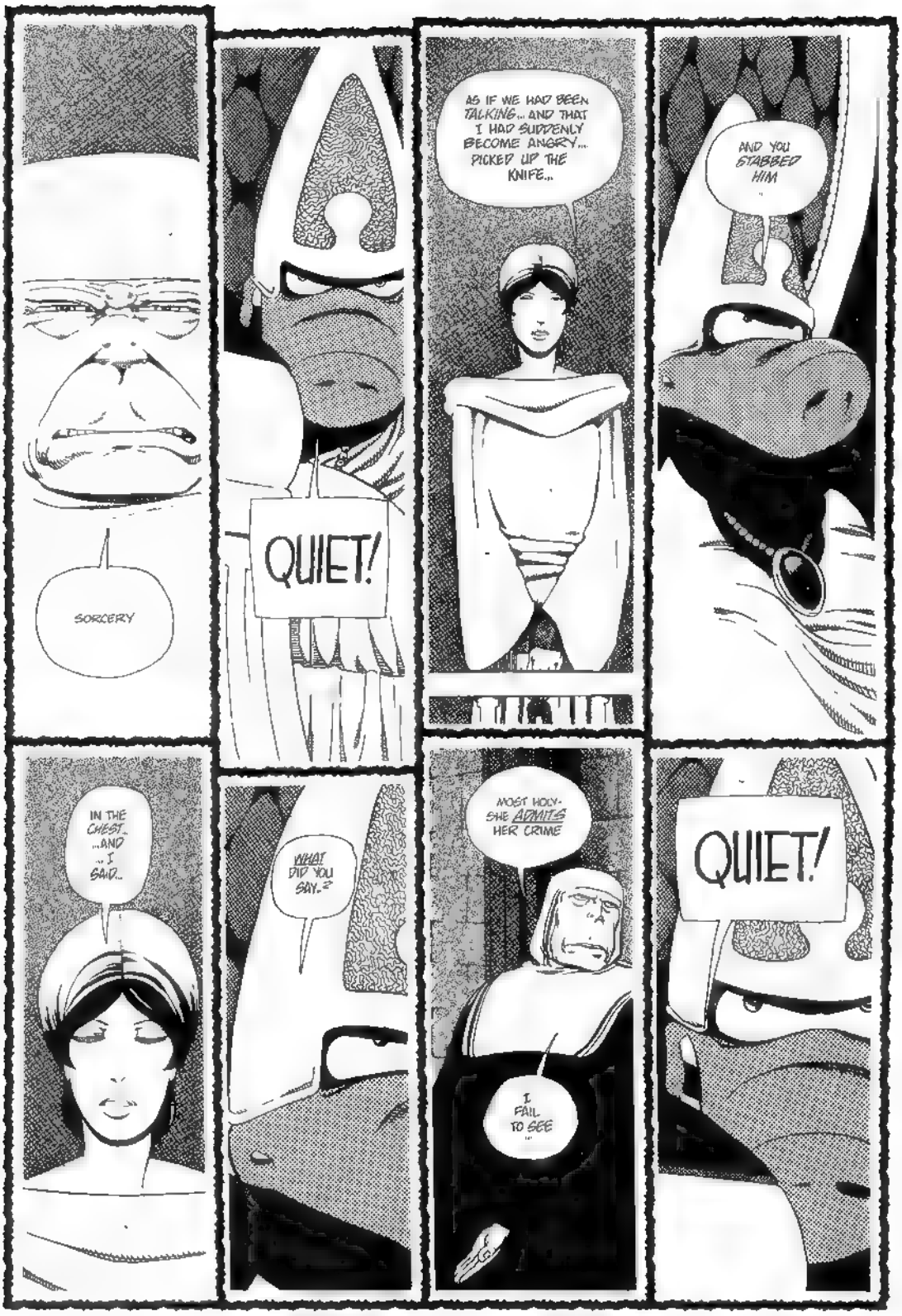

...ARCHBISHOP POSEY...
AYE.
YOU.
AS AN EXPERT ON THE PROCEDURES OF OUR CHURCH...
...THAT IS TO SAY, THE EASTERN CHURCH...
THAT IS TO SAY THE ONE, TRUE CHURCH OF TARIM.
MOST HOLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW THIS TRIAL SHOULD BEGIN...
MMM
MMM
MMM
...TRADITIONALLY...
THE PRISONER GIVES
THEIR VERSION OF THE EVENTS
IN
QUESTION, FIRST
PLOP


GOOD IDEA.
I THINK WE'D ALL LIKE AN EXPLANATION
MOST HOLY... I...
SHUT UP, POWERS ...
ASTORIA? LET'S HAVE IT.
I SAW YOU...
I SAW YOU CLIMBING THE TOWER-- WHEN YOU REACHED THE LEVEL WHERE I WAS STANDING YOU RAN PAST ME...
AYE. MOST HOLY WAS GOING TO DESTROY THE FALSE POPE WHICH MOST HOLY DID ...
HE?.. AND... SAVED?... US... ALL ... EVEN JOHNE
AYE. AND SAVED YOU ALL.
YEG...
AND SAVED US ALL ...

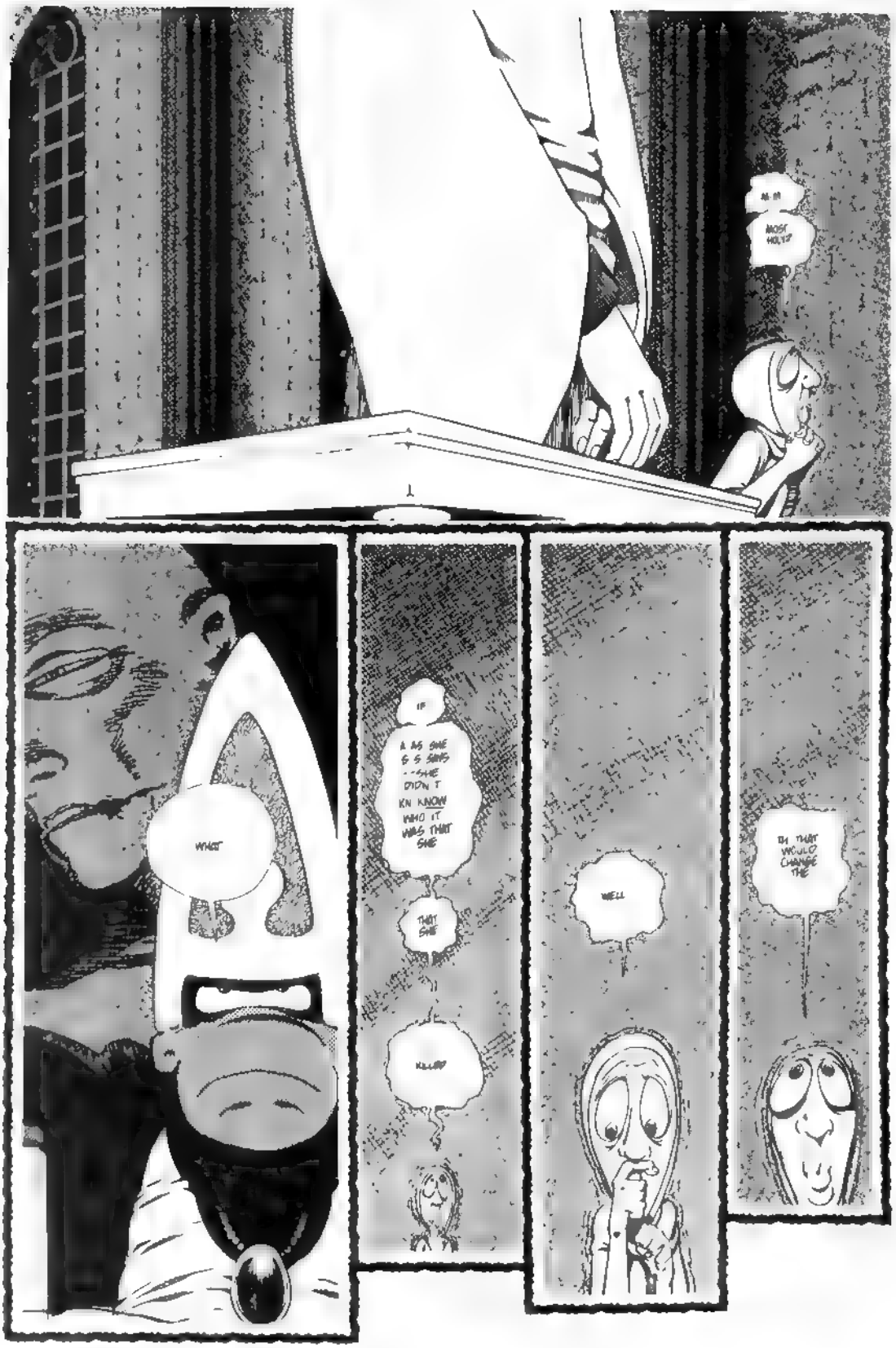
GO ON ASTORIA
'CERBERUS MOST HOLY, RAN PAST YOU'
I CALLED OUT TO YOU TO STOP AND YOU TOLD ME TO GO AWAY
AND THEN?
WE... I'M NOT QUITE SURE
EVERYTHING FADED AND
CHANGED
AYE?
AND I FOUND MYSELF IN A SMALL ORNATE CHAMBER AND THERE WAS A LARGE MAN AT A TABLE...
AND THEN I SAW...

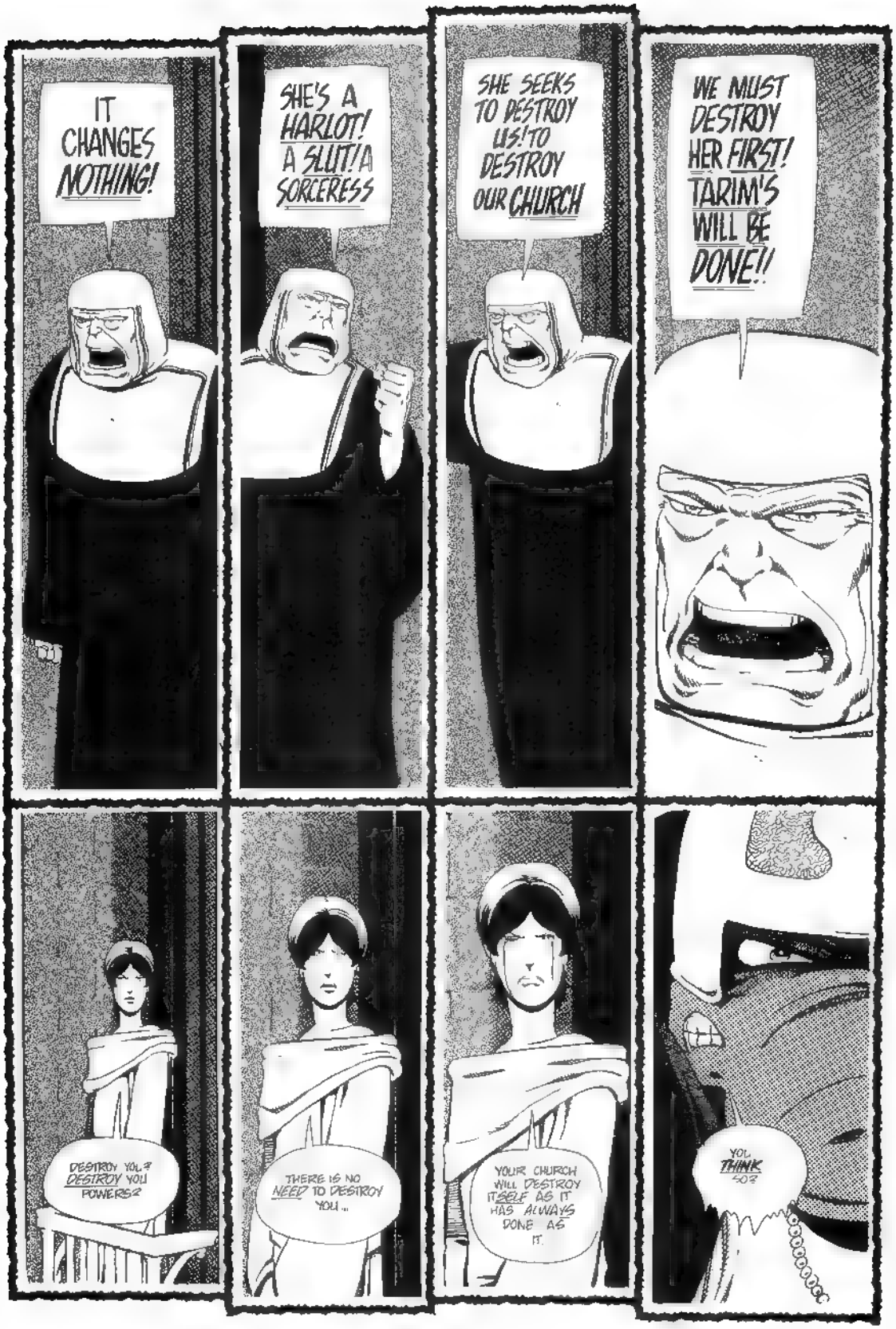

' THE KNIFE '
GO ON
IT WAS LIKE A DREAM
I KNEW I HAD TO
THE WAY YOU DO IN DREAMS I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT...
YOU KILLED HIM
YES... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHY I DID I DIDN'T
DO YOU SEE?

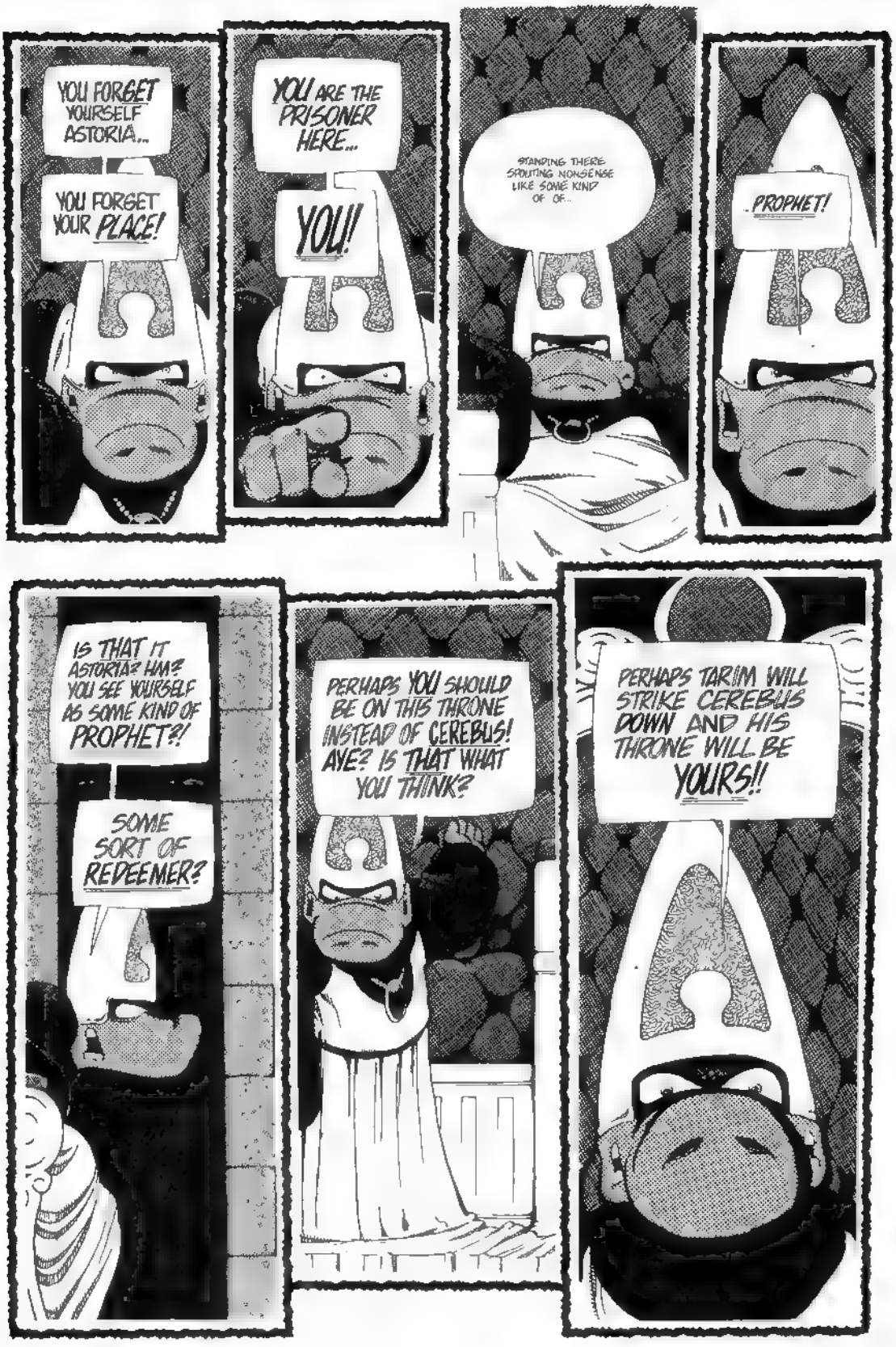

HE HADN'T HURT ME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND..
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
AND HE JUST..
JUST SAT THERE.
MOST HOLY.. I THINK WE'VE
QUIET!
YOU MEAN HE MADE NO EFFORT TO STOP YOU.
NONE AND HE WASN'T SURPRISED THAT I WAS THERE. IT WAS AS IF I HAD BEEN STANDING IN FRONT OF HIM ALL ALONG

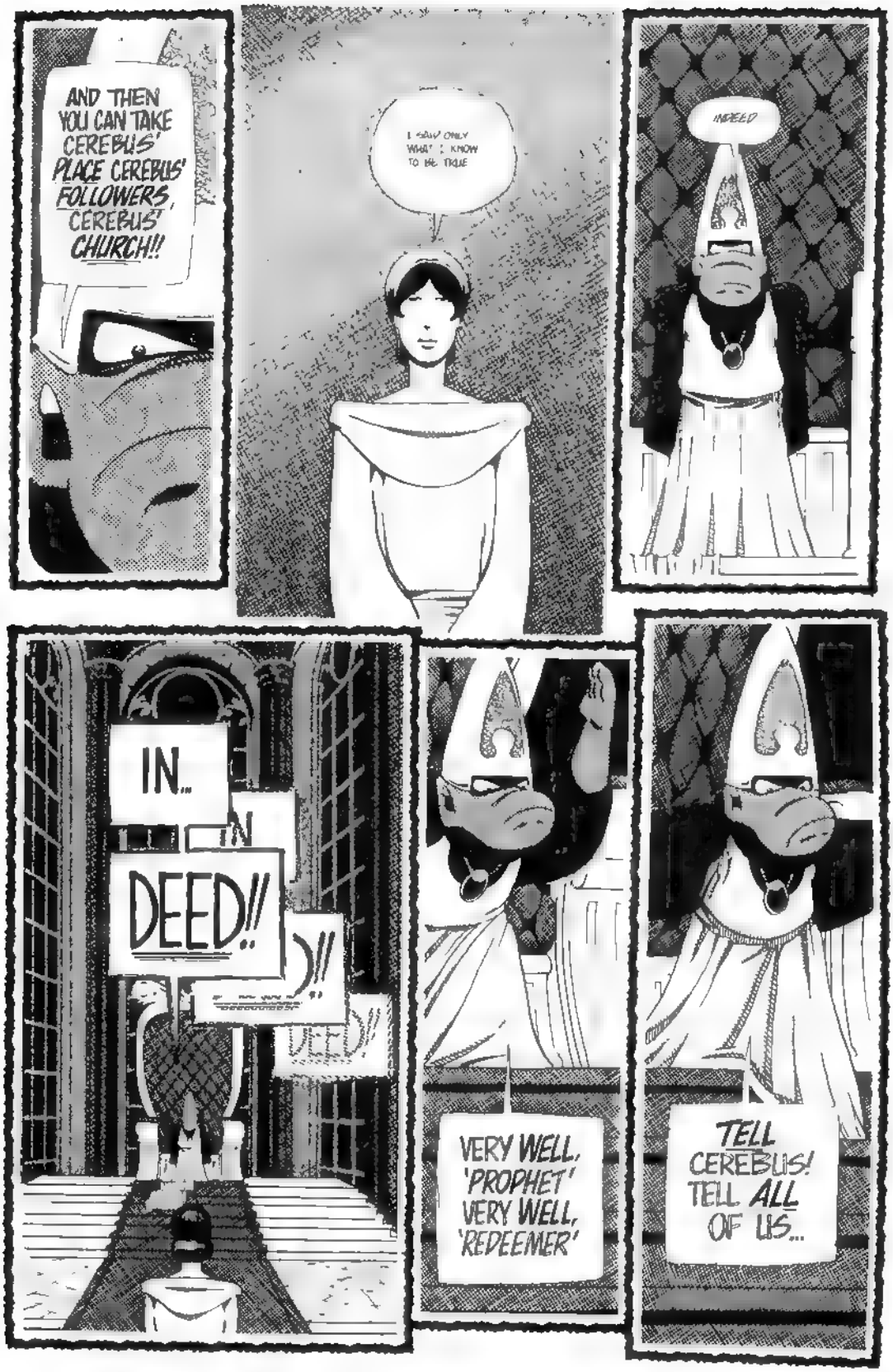

SORCERY
QUIET!
AS IF WE HAD BEEN TALKING... AND THAT I HAD SUDDENLY BECOME ANGRY... PICKED UP THE KNIFE...
AND YOU STABBED HIM
IN THE CHEST... ...AND ...I SAID...
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
MOST HOLY- SHE ADMITS HER CRIME
I FAIL TO SEE
QUIET!

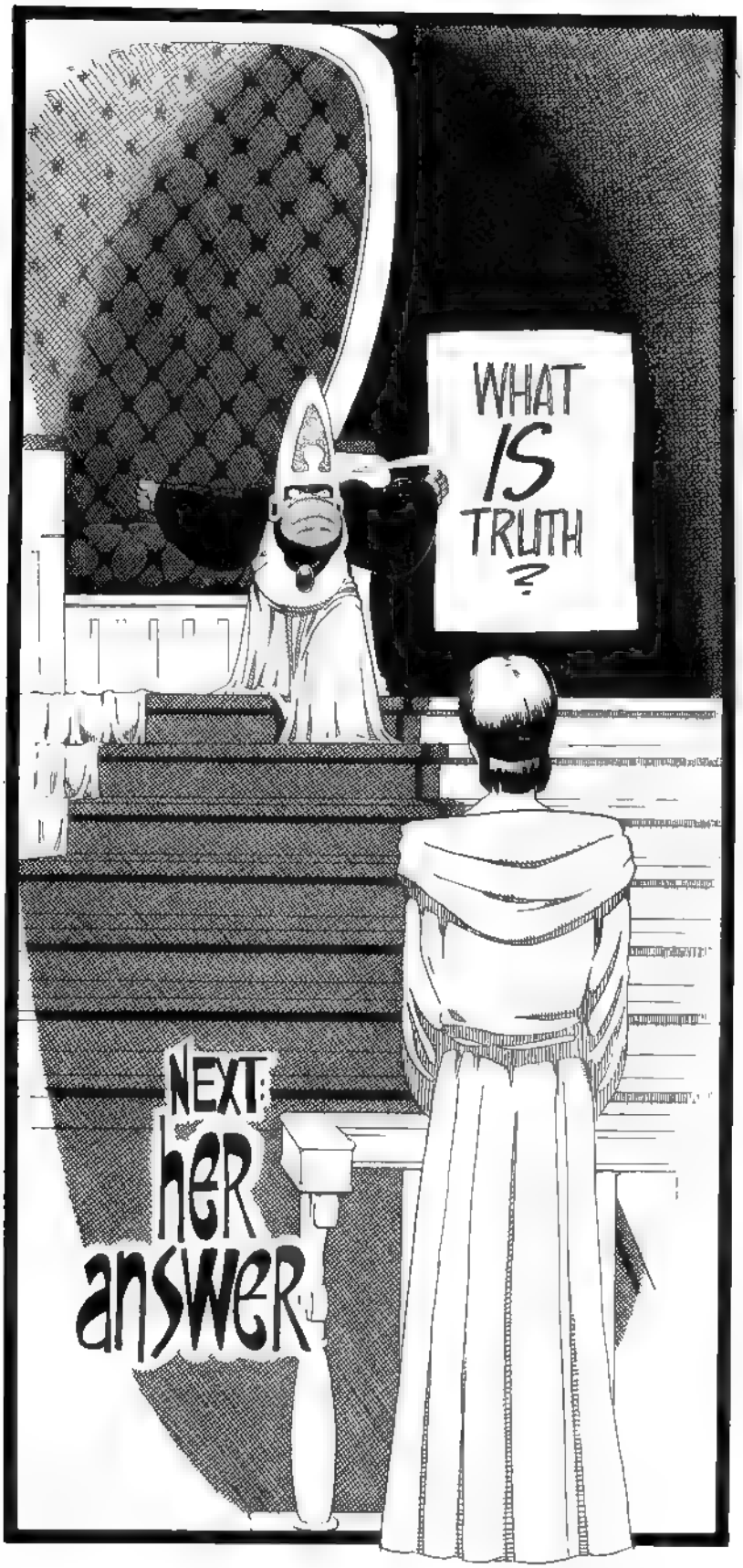
I SAID GO TO HELL
AND HE SAID.
I SHALL
I SHALL
I TALKED HIM AGA N
IN THE THROES
HE WAS TRYING TO SPEAK
TO SAY.
I COULDN'T I WOULDN'T LISTEN.
IT WAS AS IF HE KNEW KNEW ME
COULD SEE THE THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD


MOSS HOLTZ
WHAT
IF
A MS SHE
S S SAYS
--SHE
DIDN T
KN KNOW
WHO IT
WAS THAT
SHE
THAT
SHE
KILLED
WELL
TH THAT
WOULD
CHANGE
THE


IT CHANGES NOTHING!
SHE'S A HARLOT! A SLUT! A SORCERESS
SHE SEEKS TO DESTROY US! TO DESTROY OUR CHURCH
WE MUST DESTROY HER FIRST! TARIM'S WILL BE DONE!!
DESTROY YOU? DESTROY YOU POWERS?
THERE IS NO NEED TO DESTROY YOU...
YOUR CHURCH WILL DESTROY ITSELF AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE AS IT.
YOU THINK SO?


YOU FORGET YOURSELF ASTORIA...
YOU FORGET YOUR PLACE!
YOU ARE THE PRISONER HERE...
YOU!!
STANDING THERE SPOUTING NONSENSE LIKE SOME KIND OF...
...PROPHET!
IS THAT IT ASTORIA? HM? YOU SEE YOURSELF AS SOME KIND OF PROPHET?!
SOME SORT OF REDEEMER?
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD BE ON THIS THRONE INSTEAD OF CEREBUS! AYE? IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
PERHAPS TARIM WILL STRIKE CEREBUS DOWN AND HIS THRONE WILL BE YOURS!!


AND THEN YOU CAN TAKE CEREBUS' PLACE CEREBUS' FOLLOWERS, CEREBUS' CHURCH!!
I SAW ONLY WHAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE
INDEED
IN..
IN
DEED!!
VERY WELL, 'PROPHET' VERY WELL, 'REDEEMER'
TELL CEREBUS! TELL ALL OF US...


WHAT
IS
TRUTH
?
NEXT:
her
answer

A COLLECTOR'S DREAM...ON VIDEOCASSETTE

MEET

THE MASTERS OF COMIC BOOK ART

WILL EISNER
The Spirit, Contract with God

HARVEY KURTZMAN
† *Mad, Little Annie Fanny*

JACK KIRBY
•• *Silver Surfer, The New Gods* •

STEVE DITKO
• • *Spider-Man, Mr. A*

NEAL ADAMS
• *The Batman, Green Lantern–*
• *Green Arrow*

BERNI WRIGHTSON
• *Swamp Thing, Frankenstein*

MOEBIUS
Arzach, Heavy Metal

FRANK MILLER
• *Ronin, Batman,*
• *The Dark Knight Returns*

DAVE SIM
Cerebus the Aardvark

ART SPIEGELMAN
Maus, Raw Magazine

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

So, Dave Sim is perverted, (so what else is new?). But what's worse is that we have to fork out good money for only 3/4 of an issue, the rest being totally black with a bit of lettering. So, next time you do an issue like this, give us our money's worth, leave the light **ON**.

Mark Pickles,
England

Say there's an idea. A four-plate portfolio called "94 with the light on." Why, I'd probably make a fortune!

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

I'd like to tell you a few things, first off
1) I think CEREBUS is the finest example of creativity on the comics market today.
2) I eagerly await each issue.
3) So does my sister, for a different reason.
#3 presents a big problem.

Ever since I began to read and collect Cerebus, my elder sister, Andrea, has taken interest in it also. Not because of the fine artwork, plot, or anything of that nature. It seems that she has taken an interest in **you**, Dave. "Why?", you are probably saying to yourself I DON'T KNOW!! All I know is that I am missing several covers off many of my favorite issues. She tapes your pictures to the wall! For christ's sake this is getting to be a bit MUCH! Every thing I do to make sure my covers will be intact for at least a week are in vain! So now my shelves are full of Cerebus comics sans covers

Dave, if I haven't made my point clear, she has the HOTS for you!

Dave, darling. A friendly warning. She is determined to meet you in person! So, if your ventures take you to New York City, watch out! Especially if it is at a convention! If you see a tall blond girl with that "look" in her eye and face of someone who belongs on the cover of VOGUE, BEWARE! She gets carried away and is liable to have you pinned to the floor on two counts. Just a friendly warning!

Sincerely,

Rachael Brooke
O.G. Connecticut

Maybe I was a little hasty in deciding to cut out the personal appearances.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dave,

I've been wondering . Is it possible that by Act 32, Vladimir and Estragon start to lose faith a little? Could they actually become devout atheists by, say, Act 59? GHHHHHH. Someone's going to draw unemployment for this!

Argus Roy Smith
Betty Ford Center of
Expanded Consciousness

I couldn't have put it better myself.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

Hey, I just noticed that we're approaching Cerebus #100! I was hoping it would be a double-sized anniversary issue guest starring the X-Men and a Crisis crossover. Maybe it could even say "Yes, we dared to publish this, the most asinine cover-blurb of the week!" Or maybe even an origin issue! Or a flashback issue! Gad, the possibilities!

I would love a recap issue where you re-told all the times Cerebus was controlled by an evil force and made to fight his friends, only to snap out of it in the last minute through the power of love!! And all the times two villains were about to shoot Cerebus and he ducked and the villains shot themselves! And all the times Cerebus banged two heads together to knock bad-guys unconscious. Some people think that guys who write like this should be taken outside and beaten, but not me!

Oooooh, how about the first appearance of Professor Aard™, the reverse Cerebus! And the time Cerebus drank that serum that turned him into Elastic Aardvark!

How about that guy who lives just long enough to tell you what to do and then dies? What's his name again? And the guy who's been around since the dawn of time and never shows up until the writer needs a story idea?

Ah, the memories!

Glenn the Hippie
160 NW 6th St ,
Atlanta, GA., 30313

Gosh, Glenn our stupendous staff is just tickled to death with your frankly fabulous suggestions! Not to mention all your erstwhile exclamation points! You can be sure #100 will contain many (if not all) of your titanic tips! Hoo hah! Excelsior!

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave: ('n Ger)

Have you ever read **Gravity's Rainbow** by Thomas Pynchon? I'm doing just that right now, and I stumbled across a passage that might be of interest. It reminds me of the Pigts - were they based on this?

Page 366, Bantam edition.

"There are several underground communities now near Nordharsen/Bleicherode. Around here they are known collectively as the Erdschweinhohle. This is a herero joke, a bitter one. Among the ovatjimba, the poorest of the Hereros, with no cattle or villages of their own, the totem animal was the Erdschwein or aardvark They took their name from him, never ate his flesh, dug their food from the earth, just as he does. Considered outcasts, they lived in the veld, in the open You were likely to come across them at nights, their fires flaring bravely against the wind.. "

Page 367. "But as you swing away, who was the woman alone in the earth, planted up to her shoulders in the aardvark hole, a gazing head rooted to the desert plane, with an upsweep of mountains far behind her, darkly hooded, far away in the evening? .
She is a seed in the Earth. The holy aardvark has dug her bed."

As a devoted Cereboid, I went "Holy Cheez-Whiz" upon reading this passage What's the deal? Is it one of those nutty, kooky coincidences or what?

Bill Sherman
SU 1446
Williams College
Williamstown, MA , 01267

You didn't really say "Holy Cheez-Whiz" did you?

★★★★★★★★★★

Yo, Dave,

Do I sense some tension in the letter columns of issues 93 & 94? Wha's a'matter? You guys can't handle it when a writer's got balls? Hey, like Mary Stuart Masterson (be still, o' my feeble heart!)

said in **Some Kind of Wonderful**, "You mees wit' da bull an' ya' get da' horns." I mean, think about it. Dave doesn't need you - or anyone for that matter to kiss his ass. He **deserves** it, but he don't **need** it! Trust me on this one, fellas.

Anyhow, I've been hooked on Cerebus since a copy of #88 was accidently sent to me. Now, my store makes sure I get a copy every month. It's a good store, and they support you I don't know how many copies they get in a month, but they usually sell out. I'm sorry to say, though, that there're other stores in the area that kind of weasel them out because they get a lot of press. (One of them is Golden Apple, which really is a sucky store. Dirtier than my bedroom.) Like I said, I don't know how many copies of Cerebus they order, but you have to keep in mind that they're a small store; however, they're dedicated to what they do Hell, they're the best I travel an hour every two weeks just to pick up my books. They deserve a lot more business than they get

Hey, people! If you live down here, why don't you stop by Pee Wee Comics on 7520 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Canoga Pk , CA., 91303; (818) 348-2083 You'll be glad you did.

Also, Dave, can you see if you can stop here on the World Tour? I'd greatly appreciate it, and I'm sure Charles and Jerry down at Pee Wee'd too.

Thanks for listening. I'll write again next time I want someone to bust my chops

Yours till beyond the freezing of hell.

Jamie S Rich
5613 West Avenue, M-4.
Quartz Hill, CA., 93536

Anybody else have a shop they think doesn't get enough publicity? You know, the sort of place Cerebus fans would feel comfortable hanging around when they blow into town on vacation or whatever?

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear D-D-Dave,

Enclosed is my $22.00 (U.S) for High Society. Since the letter column seems to be a combat zone lately, I guess I'll have to take a side and start shooting. For what it's worth, here's my position:

"I've never met this guy Sim, but I read every issue of Cerebus and loved it. So he can say whatever he wants in the 'Note from the President' and not only is it irrelevant whether he's an asshole, it's also none of my business!"

I've always said that apathy is the best policy. It's all yours, Dave. Some of us heard you the first time. Oh yeah, I almost forgot Here's the numbered questions dept

1. Will you print this letter?
2. Where can I find headers for a '75 Lincoln?
3. If you're out of the first edition of High Society, can you at least give me the address of one of those stores that are selling it for $30-35?
4. Why isn't #51 being reprinted in Church and State?

Francis M Mango
PSC Box 1627,
Andrews AFB, MD., 20331

1. Maybe.
2. You can't. The '75 Wilkes-Booths shot holes in all of them.
3. Maybe one of them will write to you when they read this.
4. Because it's too much of an epilogue to High Society to reprint at the beginning of Church and State. (It isn't printed at the end of High Society because it would ruin the serious ending.)

★★★★★★★★★★

Dave,

It's my second anniversary of buying Cerebus. I go down to the shop, I see a great issue. Fine. I read it. Fine. Then on the last page I see the title of the next issue: "So" SO??!! Whatever happened to, "Sane as it ever was while hovering below the fray as time passes and life manoeuvres." Huh? Howabout "Terrible analogies about varying reasons of assorted depths."?? These were good titles! When I saw "Five" and "Talking to Tarim" I wasn't at all pleased. I like to think about the title and figure it out while reading Cerebus. Then you give us titles that explain what they mean! Now a title that doesn't mean anything! If my third year begins on "So." I will be very mad.

Paul Bryner
626 N Street,
Anchorage, AK., 99501

You're not a Peter Gabriel fan, I take it.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

There have been times over the years (I joined you with 41) when I've lost interest in the (non-existent?) storyline - I was convinced you didn't know where you were going at times - and I doubted your ability to point Cerebus in the right direction, any direction, and get it moving again. I stopped buying with 64 (a big mistake as 65 turned out to be a cracker), but picked up 80 out of curiousity and got hooked again and set about getting all the issues I'd missed - a frustrating job as over here it's the same story, no London comic shop has a comprehensive stock of Cerebus.

Anyway, I've just finished reading the whole run, in order, in one go, for the first time

And you know what?

It makes sense.

Thanks for some great entertainment, Dave. By the way, the letters from Cat Yronwode and Mike Panzer summed up a lot of what I hate about the comics medium Glad to see you give them both a going over. I've always found Yronwode's pretentious, patronising, hippy-dippy manner repulsive - her page at the front of all Eclipse titles is so full of shit it's unbelievable - you should never have put her on your freebie list in the first place I don't know much about U S. fans but this guy sounds a lot like the sort of scruffy, weedy, acne ridden, anorah-wearing trainspotter types that I have to wade through every time I go to a comicsmart.

Tell me, Dave, why don't these people fuck off?

Johnny Rush
London, U K.

Maybe if we keep telling them, they will.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

Just a couple of things to communicate. First, support for issue 94 ("So"). I don't have something coherent to say on the Big Surprise at the end - mixed emotions is an understatement But - since you get swamped with effusive reactions to events in the series - I wanted to send a note to tell you I'm with the group that figures "it'll all make sense in nine years" or so.

Before the letter to distributors in Issue 90, I was among the silet horde that felt, ah, disaffected. However, issue 90 cleared up everything. Interesting, isn't it, that comics fans will weep and moan when it is found out that Golden Age comics originators are reduced to poverty while their brainchildren fuel million-dollar industries, but if an artist at the start (or crest?) of his career moves to divert control and more profit to himself, they (we?) jump all over him

But, before you printed the letter on the subject, I didn't know **that** was a problem.

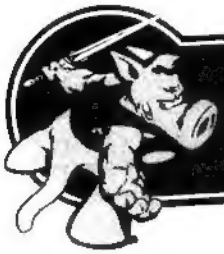
For the next thirty years, I'll be around if you'll be around.

Sincerely yours,

Denise Ozker
122 Seventh Avenue, #2,
Brooklyn, NY., 11215

Fifteen years, nine months. Then you're on your own, princess.

★★★★★★★★★★



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Church and State Volume One (first printing) will be available from Aardvark-Vanaheim June 15. All phone orders received on or before June 15 as well as all mail orders postmarked June 15 or earlier will be honoured at the pre-publication price of $23.00 U.S. and $28.00 Canadian (plus $2.50 for postage and handling). Orders received after that time will be at the full retail price of $25.00 U.S. and $30.00 Canadian (plus $2.50 for postage and handling). You can order a box of sixteen for $300.00 U.S. or $400.00 Canadian. Box orders will be sent UPS. As of June 1st, we have sold two thousand of the six thousand copy print run.

★★★★★★★★★★

High Society (first printing) is sold out (still). Please stop sending money unless you are prepared to wait until October for your copy of the second printing. I would prefer (if you want a copy of the second printing) that you notify your local shop owner, so that he can inform his distributor and (three months from now) his distributor can inform us. I could be a real son of a bitch and urge you to order from us, but I am curious to see if we can get a respectable number of copies ordered through the traditional direct-sales outlets. So, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE notify your shop owner if you want a copy of the second printing. Thank you.

★★★★★★★★★★

Cerebus (reprinting the first 25 issues) is still scheduled for release August 15. The pre-publication price is $20.00 U.S. and $25.00 Canadian (plus $2.00 for postage andhandling).

★★★★★★★★★★

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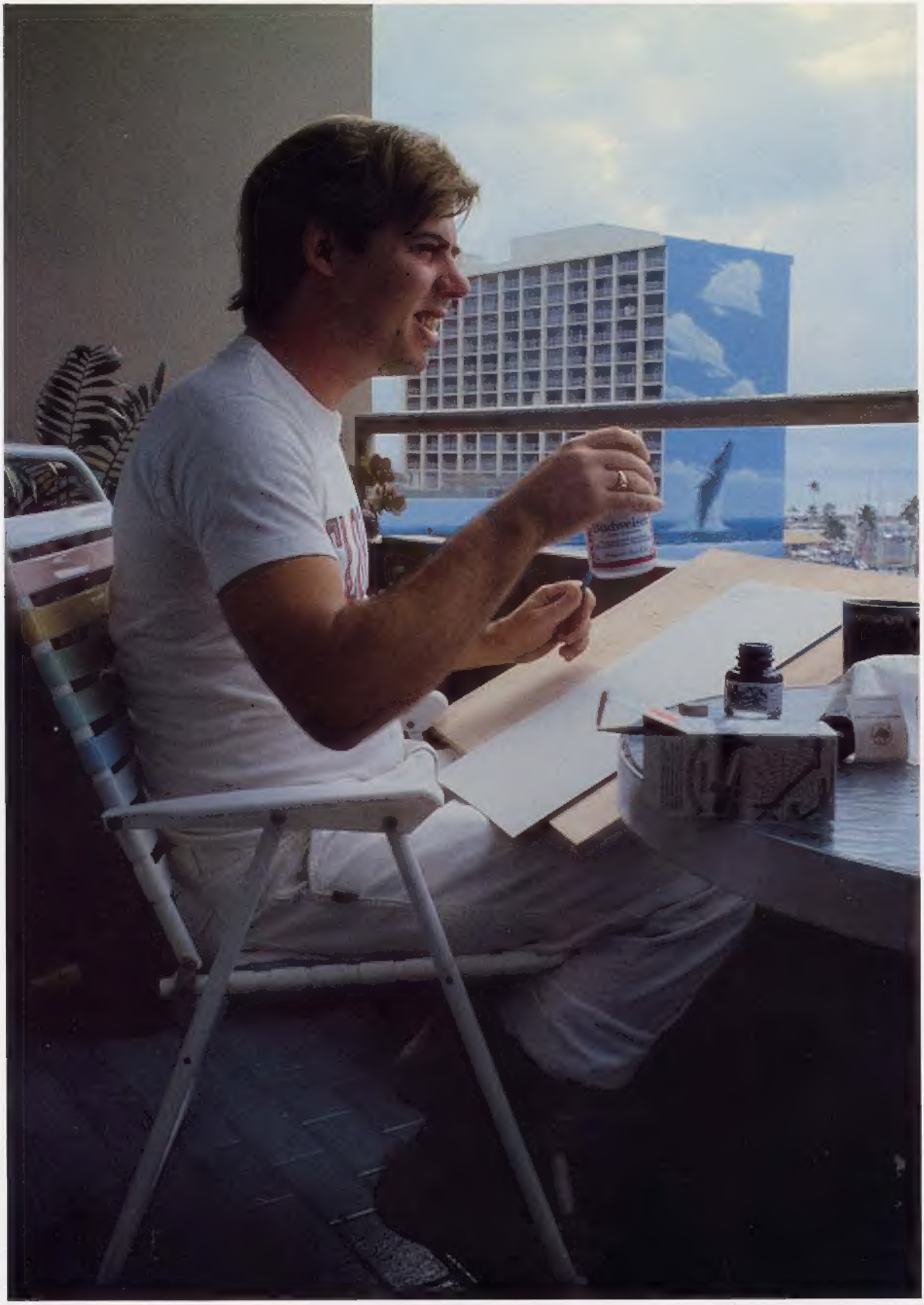

Some day, all comic books will be drawn this way.
Honolulu, 1987

PHOTO BY GERHARD

YOUR PERFECTION – I THINK

'MOST HOLY'

YES, YOUR PERFECTION

'MOST HOLY!'

MOST

HOLY

MMMM MMM

THERE, NOW, POWERS, THAT WASN'T SO DIFFICULT, WAS IT?

I GUESS MOST HOLY IS SUPPOSED TO SIT OVER HERE

MOST ... HOLY. I ...

MMMM MMM

GET AWAY FROM ME

YOUR PERF...

MOST HOLY... WITH YOUR PERMISSION I SHOULD LIKE TO BEGIN WITH THE FORMAL CHARGES

THIS VILE HARLOT IS...

POWERS!

MOST HOLY HASN'T EVEN SAT DOWN YET.

UHHH.

MOST HOLY WANTS AN APOLOGY, POWERS.

I'M

SORRY